

Peñuelas Valley Landfill
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
Standard Operating Procedure – Precipitation Data Collection and Storage

Introduction

Peñuelas Valley Landfill (PVL) is covered under the EPA multisector general permit for the discharge of uncontaminated storm water. The permit requires the periodic collection of storm water discharge samples based on precipitation amounts and frequency. To determine when to collect storm water samples it is necessary to measure precipitation daily. This procedure establishes the steps to follow for data collection and recordkeeping.

Electronic rain gauge

PVL has electronic instruments (weather stations) for collection of weather data, specially precipitation from rain events. The data is collected automatically by the electronic system and stored in memory. The data collected must be downloaded to the computer at least monthly and printed. The landfill supervisor will visually read the daily data from the display to determine when sample collection criteria is met. The monthly data will also be printed and placed in the permit file for reference and inspections.

During the daily reading of the electronic display the supervisor will verify that the equipment is operational and verify the battery status. When indicated in the display the batteries will be replaced as soon as practicable.

Conventional Rain Gauge

In the event of a malfunction of the electronic rain gauge the site has a conventional measuring device installed adjacent to the electronic system. The rain collection tube is inspected every day at the beginning of operations every morning. The amount of precipitation, if any, is recorded in a data sheet. Any collected water is emptied once the reading is recorded. At the conclusion of the month the data sheet is filed along with the electronic data report.

Peñuelas Valley Landfill
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
Standard Operating Procedure – Sample Collection and Visual Inspection

Introduction

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Sampling Criteria

PVL has a single point of discharge that requires quarterly sample collection, observation and analysis. Samples of storm water discharge must be collected after a qualifying rain event. A qualifying rain event is one that exceeds 0.5 inches of precipitation and takes place at least 72 hours after a previous rain event. It must be noted that a rain event of 0.5 inches may not cause a discharge out of the sedimentation pond since the pond has the capacity of accumulating up to five feet of water before reaching the overflow level.

Sampling Location

All the storm water from the PVL operational areas discharges into the sedimentation pond. The drainage structure is located at the low point of the pond and the overflow flows to the bottom of the containment dike. There are two discharge pipes that direct the overflow to the natural drainage ditch of the site. Samples will be collected directly from the discharge pipes as the water flows into the drainage ditch.

Sample Collection

Samples will be collected within the first 30 minutes of a discharge from a qualifying rain event. If because of severe weather it is not possible to collect the sample within the first 30 minutes, then the sample should be collected as soon as practicable after the discharge. Samples will be collected during working days and working hours. Personnel doing sampling shall not take risks when there are extreme conditions, thunder or lighting.

There will be two types of samples. One type of sample will be for visual assessment and the others for laboratory analyses as required under the permit. Availability of sampling containers and chain of custody forms is coordinated ahead of time with the external analytical laboratory.

The landfill supervisor or the designated individual will walk to the lower side of the containment dike to collect the samples required. Visual assessment samples and analytical

samples will be collected at the same time but this is not required as long as the requirement for quarterly samples is met. The sample bottle will be placed by hand under the discharge and filled. The sample containers will be sealed and identified for proper documentation. The visual assessment will be performed at the office following the established protocol described in the SWPPP. The visual assessment will be documented in the data form that once completed is filed in the storm water file. The samples that will be subject to laboratory analysis will be packaged and preserved in accordance with the laboratory instructions. Once the samples are ready the landfill supervisor will coordinate with the laboratory for sample pick-up.